

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-23. (Canceled).

24. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A cell-free preparation of a therapeutically suitable glutaminase which is free of *Pseudomonas* endotoxin, **wherein the glutaminase is produced by the method according to claim 51.**

25. (Withdrawn) The preparation of claim 24 wherein said glutaminase is a *Pseudomonas* glutaminase.

26. (Withdrawn) The preparation of claim 24 wherein said glutaminase is a *Pseudomonas 7A* glutaminase.

27. (Withdrawn) The preparation of claim 24, which is free of non-glutaminase *Pseudomonas* proteins.

28. (Withdrawn) The preparation of Claim 24, which is made by the process of:
culturing a recombinant microorganism which comprises a nucleotide sequence that codes for a therapeutically suitable glutaminase; and
collecting said therapeutically suitable glutaminase produced by said microorganism.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Withdrawn): The preparation of claim 26 which has an initial methionine preceding the initial lysine of mature glutaminase.

31-46. (Canceled).

47. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended): The preparation of claim **24**[[29]], wherein said glutaminase is encoded by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

48. (Withdrawn): The preparation of claim 24 wherein said glutaminase has a K_m of 10^{-6} to 10^{-4} M for its reactants and remains active in human sera.

49. (Withdrawn): The preparation of claim 24, wherein said microorganism is a bacterium.

50. (Withdrawn): The preparation of claim 49, wherein said microorganism is *E. coli*.

51. (Currently Amended): A method of producing a therapeutically suitable glutaminase comprising:

culturing a recombinant microorganism which comprises a nucleotide sequence that codes for a therapeutically suitable glutaminase; and

collecting said therapeutically suitable glutaminase produced by said microorganism, **wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes the protein of SEQ ID NO: 2.**

52. (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 51, wherein said microorganism is a bacterium.

53. (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 52, wherein said microorganism is *E. coli*.

54. (Cancelled)

55. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim **51****[[54]]**, wherein said protein is encoded by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

56. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 51 wherein **the protein encoded by the nucleotide sequence** ~~said glutaminase~~ has a K_m of 10^{-6} to 10^{-4} M for its reactants and remains active in human sera.

57. (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 51, wherein said glutaminase is a *Pseudomonas* glutaminase.